

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

• This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1-8. (Cancelled)

9. (New) A network bridge comprising:

means for monitoring at least one of contents and volume of at least one of incoming and outgoing data flowing through at least one of the network bridge and its memory, the means for monitoring being one of (a) at least one of configurable and controllable by a higher-level instance and (b) predefined.

10. (New) The network bridge according to claim 9, wherein the network bridge is for coupling IEEE 1394 buses.

11. (New) The network bridge according to claim 9, wherein the higher-level instance includes at least one of a management and configuration layer for the network bridge.

12. (New) The network bridge according to claim 9, wherein the means for monitoring encompasses a software component within a network bridge architecture, the component having at least one of a gateway functionality and a firewall functionality.

13. (New) The network bridge according to claim 9, wherein an extent of a data analysis by the means for monitoring is scaleable.

14. (New) The network bridge according to claim 9, wherein the means for monitoring is configured in such a way that in addition to an analysis of the data, a manipulation of the data is performed as well.

15. (New) The network bridge according to claim 9, wherein an analysis and manipulation of the data are performable in various layers of a layer model, including an OSI reference model.

16. (New) The network bridge according to claim 9, wherein the means for monitoring is configured to one of block and prioritize at least one of address interfaces, input interfaces, output interfaces, and logged data, on the basis of an evaluation.

17. (New) A system comprising:

a plurality of network bridges, each of the network bridges including means for monitoring at least one of contents and volume of at least one of incoming and outgoing data flowing through at least one of the network bridge and its memory, the means for monitoring being one of (a) at least one of configurable and controllable by a higher-level instance and (b) predefined, the means for monitoring being individually configurable in each network bridge in order to allow each network bridge, independently of other of the network bridges, to be capable of performing functions of one of a gateway and a firewall.